

I must find myself in agreement with Mr. Ward's proposal. CW is no longer a clearly superior system to voice with the advent of modern SSB rigs. It is, however, VERY efficient in terms of bandwidth. FOr this reason, it should be an AVAILABLE MODE, but proficiency should not be a licensing requirement.

The Amateur Radio Service is unfortunately, becoming an "old-person's" hobby - - we are not attracting new entrants. Without new entrants, how can we uphold the tradition of public service - who will carry on that legacy?

I would amend the proposal to include more stringent testing requirements. I don't recall seeing an ohms law application question on my general exam (it was on my novice test 30 years ago)! Granted, RF safety is an important topic, but there should be more "nuts and bolts" questions. This would not only help keep "27 mhz riff-raff" away, but a good technical background is a good indicator of who will and won't be an amateur operator who observes good operating practice.